

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) released the following message for Martin Luther King Jr. Day:

"The words and ideals of Martin Luther King Jr. are as inspirational today as they were 45 years ago, in no small part because they offer a moral compass for so many issues we confront today.

"King spent his life as a peaceful warrior, struggling to overcome a history of bigotry, violence, and hatred. But anyone who spends time with his ideas quickly discovers that King's philosophies offer much broader lessons.

"In accepting his Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, King said: "Sooner or later all the people of the world will have to discover a way to live together in peace, and thereby transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of brotherhood. If this is to be achieved, man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation."

"From violence in our streets to wars abroad, we must constantly draw our eyes back to the roadmap King offered us, a pathway to peace. We must find the courage to live up to King's genius: "Civilization and violence are antithetical concepts."

"King was the right man at the right time with the right ideas for the civil rights movement, helping coalesce support to end the blatant racism that so stained our concept of freedom.

"Tomorrow, we inaugurate Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States. And while our battle to stamp out racism and intolerance continues, I think King would be proud of us. He brought together whites and blacks, young and old to combat injustice, and we're left behind to carry on his work. I believe our new president is the right man at the right time with the right ideas to put our country back on track toward greatness.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Martin Luther King Jr. He is proof that one person can change so many things for the better and leave behind a legacy that offers hope for so many people."

#